

STUDIES IN AMERICAN PLANTS, V.

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ACANTHACEAE

Recent examination of a collection of Ruellia from Honduras, made at the request of Prof. Antonio Molina R. of the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, revealed the following new species:

RUPELLIA MOLINAE D. Gibson, sp. nov.

Herbae erectae, suffruticosae, 15-50 cm. altae; folia opposita, petioli 0.5-2.5 cm. longis, laminae lanceolatae vel ovatae, 3-7 cm. longae, acuminatae, basi acutae vel rotundatae, glabratae vel minute adpresso-pubescentes in costis et venis, integrae vel haud manifeste crenatae sed ciliatae; inflorescentiae subumbelliformes, pedunculatae, pedunculis 3-7 cm. longis, 2-6 flores sessiles vel subsessiles; bracteis foliiformibus, 1-2 cm. longis; calyx 4-8 mm. longus, lobiis 5, lineari-subulatis; corolla rubra, 2.5-3 cm. longa; stamina 4; capsula immatura clavata, pubescente; semina 8 vel numerosiora, lentiformia.

Erect, suffruticose plants, 15-50 cm. tall, the stems bifariously pubescent or glabrate, simple or sparsely branched; leaves on petioles 0.5-2.5 cm. long, the blades lanceolate or the lower ones sometimes ovate, acuminate, acute or almost rounded at the base, mostly 3-7 cm. long, glabrous or minutely appressed-pubescent along the costae and veins, the margins entire or obscurely crenate but ciliate, the cystoliths numerous and conspicuous; inflorescences axillary, subumbelliform, long-pedunculate, the peduncles 3-7 cm. long, pubescent or glabrate, the 2-6 flowers sessile or subsessile, the bracts leaf-like, 1-2 cm. long, 0.3-0.5 cm. broad; bracteoles linear, acuminate, 3-6 mm. long, pubescent; calyx 4-8 mm. long, the 5 segments linear-subulate, essentially glabrous but sparsely ciliate; corolla red, glabrous outside or minutely puberulent on the lower portion, 2.5-3 cm. long, the narrow basal portion of the tube about 0.5 cm. long, the throat rather abruptly dilated, then ampliate to about 5 mm. wide below the lobes, the limb spreading, the lobes mostly less than 1 cm. long; stamens 4, bithecous; immature capsule about 8 mm. long, clavate, pubescent, containing 8 or more flat, lenticular seeds.

HONDURAS: Dept. Olancho, Matorrales húmedos de Quebrada Catacamas cerca de la presa en Montaña Peña Blanca, 900 m., Molina 8343, type (F) (EAP).

Apparently related to R. pereducta Standley and R. stemonacanthoides (Oerst.) Hemsley, both with larger leaves, mostly 7-15 cm. long, and longer corollas, 3-4.5 cm. long.

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

As a result of recent studies of the genus Viburnum during preparation of manuscript for the Caprifoliaceae in the "Flora of Guatemala", one new species from Chiapas, Mexico has been distinguished, new combinations for two Guatemalan species are required, and as it was decided to exclude from the Flora another Chiapas species because the inadequate material prevented naming it with certainty, it seems appropriate to discuss it here.

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VIBURNUM DISJUNCTUM var. MENDAX (Morton) D. Gibson, comb. nov.
V. mendax Morton, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 49: 154. 1936.

Differs from V. disjunctum Morton only in having considerably less indument, the leaves usually rather sparsely stellate-pubescent beneath or glabrate, and the calyx tube often appearing green and somewhat viscid due to lack of indument. The calyx tube of V. disjunctum is densely tomentose.

VIBURNUM JUCUNDUM var. DETRACTUM (Standl. & Steyerl.) D. Gibson, comb. nov. V. detractum Standl. & Steyerl. Field Mus. Bot. 23: 89. 1944.

Differs from V. jucundum only in amount of indument, the stems and branches sparsely pilose rather than tomentose, and the tissue between the veins of the leaves is almost glabrous.

VIBURNUM OBTUSATUM D. Gibson, sp. nov.

Frutices vel arbores debiles usque ad 6 m. altae; folia opposita, petiolis brevibus, laminae 2-6 cm. longae, ovatae vel lanceolatae, breviter acuminatae sed obtusatae, basi rotundatae aut acutae, plerumque abrupte decurrentes in petiolis, integrae, glabratae; inflorescentiae pedunculatae, pedunculis puberulis, 1-3 cm. longis; cymae bi-compositae, 1.5-3 cm. latae, 5-7 radiis primariis puberulis, interdum plus minusve rubro-glandulosi; pedicelli saepe rubro-glandulosi; calyx lobis ca. 1 mm. longis, late triangularibus, obtusis aut acutis, glabris; corolla alba, glabra, ca. 5 mm. diametro; stylus glabris aut basi plus minusve pubescens; fructus purpureus, obovoideus, 1 centimetro brevior, putamen sulcatum.

Shrubs or weak trees to 6 m. tall; leaves opposite, petioles short, the blades 2-6 cm. long, ovate or lanceolate, obtusely short-acuminate at the apex, rounded or acute at the base and usually abruptly decurrent on the petiole, entire, essentially glabrous; inflorescences pedunculate, the peduncles finely puberulent, 1-3 cm. long; cymes twice compound, 1.5-3 cm. broad, the 5-7 primary rays minutely puberulent, sometimes more or less red-glandular; pedicels frequently red-glandular; calyx lobes about 1 mm. long, broadly triangular, obtuse or acute, glabrous; corolla white, glabrous, about 5 mm. in diameter; style glabrous or somewhat pubescent near the base; fruits purple, obovoid, less than 1 cm. long, the stone grooved.

MEXICO: Steep slopes with Quercus, on northeast slope of Zontehuitz near summit, and on road from San Cristobal las Casas to Tenejapa, Chiapas, 8,300-9,300 feet, Breedlove and Raven 8118, type (flowering) (F); Breedlove 9077 (fruiting) (F).

In addition to the 13 species of Viburnum treated in the forthcoming volume of the Flora, there is another in Chiapas, represented by two collections, A. J. Sharp 45988, elev. 7,100 ft., and R. M. Laughlin 943, elev. 4,500 ft., both annotated by Morton as V. mendax Morton (V. disjunctum var. mendax D. Gibson). However, the leaves of the var. mendax are lance-ovate to lance-oblong, mostly 7-20 cm. long, acuminate to long-acuminate at the apex, with indument of the lower surfaces composed of minute stellae less than 0.5 mm. in diameter; the leaves of the Chiapas plants are broadly ovate to oblong-oval, mostly 2.5-7.5 cm. long, 2-4 cm. broad, abruptly short-acuminate or apiculate, with indument composed of large stellae 1-2 mm. in diameter. Unfortunately, both Chiapas collections lack flowers. A few fruits remaining on Sharp 45988 are sparsely stellate-pubescent and the calyx lobes are ciliate. The type of indument suggests the Mexican V. loeseneri Graebn. but the leaves of that species are small, commonly 2-5 cm. long and only 1-2.5 cm. broad.